

Aztec Tennis Reporter

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SERVING THE SAN DIEGO STATE TENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1998

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THE LAST MATCH
TENNIS EVERYONE? Ad for Old Globe tennis play.

Tennis's New Role? On Stage Near You!

First it was the La Jolla Playhouse moving Anton Chekov's *Three Sisters* to a tennis court off Torrey Pines Road. That was October.

Then the Old Globe Theater scheduled a play called *The Last Match* for February world debut in Balboa Park.

Rarely has tennis played such a prominent role in the arts — if you set aside those Hollywood movies where earnest actors hit poorly fashioned strokes that sap our confidence in the film. This is different. Jenni Putney, the

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Aztecs Opening 94th Tennis Season

TEAMS BOOK 22 MATCHES FOR CAMPUS

San Diego State's two teams embark this month on college tennis seasons that mark the 94th year of competition stretching back to the founding of a campus men's tennis club in 1922.

The women, who face six teams ranked in the top 25 last year, begin play on Saturday, Jan. 23, with a home double-header against UC Riverside and Cal State Fullerton.

The men open with individual play Jan. 15 in Palm Desert, CA, at the National Collegiate Championships.

The Aztec men stay on the road against UC Riverside, Stanford, Cal Poly, St. Mary's, and USD before their first home court match on Fri-



Aztec Tennis Reporter photos

SWEET SPOT: Aztec Kennedy Davis connects during fall intercollegiate regional.

day, Feb. 19, against UC Santa Barbara. In March, they play three home matches (Penn, Pepperdine, and Arizona) and host an invitational involving San

Diego State, Harvard, Princeton, Denver, Texas Tech, Tulane, Memphis and USD.

The two Aztec teams face 22 of their 41 dual match opponents at the Aztec Tennis Center.

The Aztecs hail from the U.S., Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Philippines, and Sweden.

The Aztec men in-



Aztec Jonas Meinzer

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Aztec Pushes to Reopen Six Sealed Courts

Aztec Dick Smith (1958) wants tennis restored to courts close to his home. He lives on Kettner Boulevard near San Diego's downtown core.

For 21 years beginning in 1989, Smith, a schoolteacher, played at a six-court facility atop the San Diego Convention Center, where traffic rushes past on Harbor Drive below.

Five years ago, the Marriott Hotel that once boasted



Smith



Garrick

of running the courts for its guests and neighbors, bowed out. Convention center officials locked the gates, sealing off the courts.

"It's really too bad because they are beautiful courts with a beautiful view and they are sitting up there unused," Smith told *San Diego Union-Tribune* reporter David Garrick in September. "It's such a waste,"

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Aztec Pushes as 6 Locked Tennis Courts Languish in Dispute

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Smith said. Marriott officials wouldn't talk to reporter Garrick but he persisted. Port of San Diego officials told him it was a safety issue, that players might not be able to escape in a fire or other emergency.

"I think it was an excuse to close the courts down because they weren't money-makers," Smith told Garrick.

There's a larger issue, according to Smith and others quot-

ed in the story.

Despite a population of more than 35,000 residents living in the center of one of the country's most popular tennis communities, there are no public tennis courts

within its urban boundaries.

Port officials told Garrick they were open to sugges-



San Diego Union-Tribune/Eduardo Contreras
SEAGULL VIEW: Rooftop tennis courts were closed, sealed off.

tions but there the matter rested, at an impasse. The hotel, meanwhile, retains control of the courts "as part of its lease with the port,"

Garrick reported, adding "The port agreed to build the

courts for the hotel in the 1980s because the convention center is built on land

where the hotel's previous owners had planned to build eight tennis courts and other recreational amenities."

Who should pay to restore and run a reopened facility? Smith said the city, which administers tennis courts across dozens of neighborhoods, would be a logical choice.

"I've been pushing for those courts to reopen for years," Smith told Garrick, who covers City Hall (where such a decision could be made). "I'm sure a lot of people would enjoy going up there to play."

Tennis, Actors and Two San Diego Theaters: What's Going On?

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actor playing Irina in *Three Sisters*, knows her stuff. She capably tapped forehand and backhand volleys fed rapid fire by a fellow actor, then comfortably smacked a few overheads into the back court. A former high school player and coach in Palo Alto, Putney is the real deal as a tennis player and a stage performer.



THREE SISTERS: Irina has real strokes!

between these two opponents."

Dugdale took lessons and played tennis as a child and young teenager. "I loved Agassi and Sampras," he said, "that rivalry."

Seemingly intrigued by the woes struggling players face today, he found a Russian named, yes, Anton Chekhov who quit the ATP tour in 2009 after earning only \$450 and ranking far beyond 1,000th. "It would seem his career was a failure and his dreams of being a champion

were unrealized," Dugdale wrote in the playbill. Playwright Chekhov, of course, would have feasted on such misfortune.

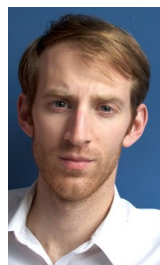
In February, the Old Globe stages *The Last Match*. Playwright Anna Ziegler laid out the plot. It's the US Open semifinals. "Russian phenom Sergei Sergeyev and American superstar Tim Porter do battle," she writes.

The audience soon finds itself "inside the minds" of the two players, exploring "the lives and the relationships that led to this defining moment."

Before the final shot, she explains, more than just a match will be won and lost. The audience will learn what each player sacrificed to come this far.

As players, we can only pray the actors hit their shots as capably as Jenni Putney did as the totally credible tennis-playing Irina in *Three Sisters*.

If so, what's next? How about *Death of a Salesman* at Wimbledon? **J.M.**



Dugdale

Chekhov's play is a mordant look at life. The sisters feel desperation and pain. So why did Tom Dugdale, the co-artistic director (with Joshua K. Brody) of the theater company called *The Trip*, move the play to a tennis court, where his actors frequently jump the net, dance along the baselines and forecourt, inflate and cavort with a huge tennis ball, and talk to the spectators?

Two reasons, he suggested. First, to evoke a sense of leisure (from another time; everybody wears white). Second, to exploit tennis's intensity.

"Tennis really boils because of how much energy is contained in a smaller space. The whole thing is even further intensified by the fact there is a net

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Aztec Tennis Reporter is a newsletter created in 1998 for players, coaches, alumni, and friends of San Diego State tennis. Neither the university nor its athletic department is responsible for its content. This is the 61st issue. To comment, or subscribe, email aztectennisreporter@yahoo.com.



John Martin
Editor

Where Are We Now? The Great Search (1922-2016) Continues



Aztec Matt Tosches (2007-11): I'm a firefighter and paramedic for the Corona Fire Department in Riverside County. I started in May and I'm in my first year of probation. At a bridge collapse recently (left), I am the one in all blue carrying the stretcher for one of nine seriously injured workers. My unit was the first on the scene. We travel to fight forest fires, too (left and right) I have the hose over my shoulder (right). I play tennis when I can. In October, I hit at the Aztec Tennis Center with Andre Feliz, my 2007-2011 teammate who teaches tennis in Los Angeles. I also saw Vicente Tulliano, our stringer.



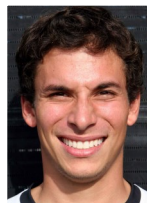
Corona firefighters battle flames in Northern California at the Fork Complex fire in Hayfork. COURTESY OF CORONA FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE SEASON'S ROAD WARRIORS

9 workers hurt in overpass collapse



Feliz



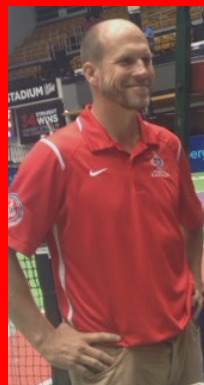
Tulliano

AZTECS REUNITED IN BOSTON: Ned Eames (1979-83), left, and Richard Stoakes (1981-82) stand beneath flags of their two countries as they meet at the Longwood Cricket Club. Eames founded Tenacity, a tennis non-profit that trains thousands of children from low-income Bos-



ton families. Stoakes, a British businessman and board member of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, led a contingent of AELTC members playing grass court clubs (Longwood, International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, and Meadow Club in Southampton, Long Island). In New York City, Stoakes and his comrades played at the River Club and took in matches at the U.S. Open. In the 1980s, after playing at San Diego State (under Coach Skip Redondo), Stoakes and Eames competed professionally in Europe (Switzerland) on the satellite circuit.

KING AMONG THE KASTLES: Aztec Kelly Nygaard (1993-94) stands at courtside moments before his Wasington Kastle teammates won the World Team Tennis Championship in August with a 24-18 victory over the Austin Aces. Nygaard joined the Kastles some years ago, manages its equipment, and teaches tennis in Maryland. A businessman, he's creating and developing an online court scheduling service. An inventor, too, he's created a lighted courtside scoreboard.



Aztec Teams Schedule 22 Home Matches in a 94th Tennis Season

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clude two newcomers, Sander Anderson of Hellerup, Denmark, and Raoul de la Torre of Calexico, CA., both freshmen. A new woman, Taylor Le-

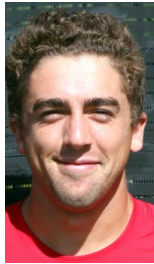
derman of Sarasota, FL, is a junior transfer from the University of Kentucky.

The Aztec men finished the 2015 season ranked 38th in the country.

Both the men and women won invitations to the 2015 NCAA post-season championships. The men upset 22nd ranked USD before losing to the defending champions, the USC Trojans.



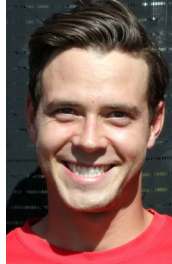
Sander Anderson



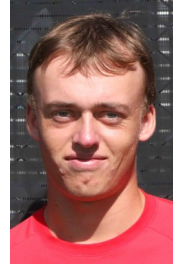
Santiago Cevallos



Raul de la Torre



Freddy Gelbrich



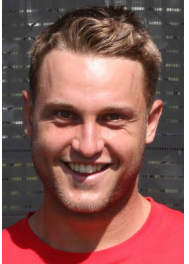
Marko Goles-Babic



Milen Ianakiev



Hendrik Jebens



Jonas Meinzer



Jana Buth



Kennedy Davis



Paola Diaz de Regules



Isabelle Hoorn



Olivia Larsson



Taylor Lederman



Tami Nguyen



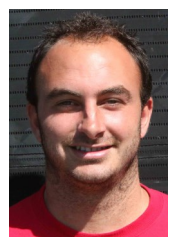
Dora Somaracz



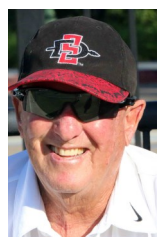
Peter Mattera



Lindsey Gamp



Nico Vinel



Larry Willens



Jeff Thomsen



Gene Carswell



| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Women Away | Aztec Tennis Center | Men Away |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|

Jan 31 Pepperdine
 Feb 12 Washington
 Feb 13 Saint Mary's
 Feb 24 California
 Feb 27 LB State
 Mar 26 Arizona St
 Apr 10 Fresno St
 Apr 23 UNLV
 Apr 28-May1 MW Championships (Fort Collins, CO).

Women

Jan 23 UC Riverside 9 a.m.
 Jan 23 Cal State Fullerton 4 p.m.
 Jan 29 Kentucky 2 p.m.
 Feb 6 UC Davis 12 noon
 Feb 16 Hawai'i 2 p.m.
 Feb 18 UC Irvine
 Mar 1 Loyola Marymount 2 p.m.
 Mar 5 Sacramento State 12 noon
 Mar 14 Minnesota 2 p.m.
 Mar 19 Dartmouth 12 noon
 Mar 22 Cal Poly 2 p.m.
 Apr 1 Nevada 10 a.m.
 Apr 3 San Jose State 12 noon
 Apr 7 USF 2 p.m.
 Apr 20 USD 2 p.m.

Men

Feb 19 UC Santa Barbara
 Mar 3 Pepperdine
 Mar 11 Penn
 Mar 12 Arizona
 Mar 17-19 Hilton Mission Valley Classic (Teams: Harvard, Princeton, Denver, Texas Tech, Tulane, Memphis, University of San Diego and San Diego State).
 Apr 8 New Mexico
 Apr 10 Air Force
 Apr 17 Utah State

For men's home match times, go to goaztecs.com

Jan 17 UC Riverside, (Palm Desert, CA)
 Jan 30 Stanford
 Feb 6 Cal Poly SLO
 Feb 6 Saint Mary's
 Feb 13 USD at USD
 Mar 3-6 Pac Coast Doubles (La Jolla)
 Mar 29 California
 Mar 30 Santa Clara
 Apr 1 Nevada Reno
 Apr 3 Fresno State
 Apr 15 Boise St
 Apr 23 UNLV
 Apr 29-May 1 MW Championships (Las Vegas, NV)